THE PORT FOLIO,

(NEW SERIES)

BY OLIVER OLDSCHOOL, ESQ.

Various, that the mind of desultory man, studious of change and pleased with novelty, may be indulged—Cowp.

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ORIGINAL PAPERS.

For The Port Folio.

TRAVELS.

LETTERS FROM GENEVA AND FRANCE.

Written during a residence of between two and three years in different parts of those countries, and addressed to a lady in Virginia.

(*Continued from page* 53.)

LETTER XXXIV.

My dear E——,

I REMEMBER your being amused at K. with an account we read of the polypus in Goldsmith's Natural History, and my telling you then, that I had formerly known Mr. Trembly the discoverer of that wonderful animal, which, as is sometimes the case with beings far more elevated on the scale of creation, has derived but little advantage from the celebrity it enjoys. This miserable and yet wonderful production of nature, which can scarcely be distinguished at the bottom of a muddy ditch from amidst kindred vegetables, was converted by the sagacity and perseverance of Mr. Trembly into a source of wonder which far exceeds the efforts of the wildest imagination. Not satisfied with the perfect knowledge he acquired of all the various forms the polypus could be made to assume, and with the art which he may be said to have attained of composing an entire animal from detached pieces of various individuals, he penetrated the recesses of their private life, became acquainted with their ruling passion, their prevailing tastes, their mode of receiving and digesting nourishment, and the disorders to which they are exposed.

It is singular enough that the polypus should have its tormentors like the nobler beings of the great chain: but Mr. Trembly found means to drive off the race of insects that beset those in his possession, and as he was a humane man, it is to be hoped that he

derived some consolation from this discovery for the pain which he must have experienced in a course of experiments so fatal to a humble and inoffensive creature, experiments, which, after all, have led to nothing more than to increase, if it could be increased, our admiration of the works of nature.

Another distinguished character of Geneva, whom you have heard me speak of, was Mr. Huber, whose knowledge of natural history in some branches rendered him conspicuous, but whose talents for painting, and cutting out likenesses in paper were principally expended on Voltaire; he has represented the poet at every stage of life, in every sort of employment, and under the operation of almost every passion. So impressed indeed was his mind with the idea of Voltaire, that he could make his dog tear out a likeness of him from a piece of paper, or eat out a likeness of him from a piece of bread, not to mention various others modes which he was fond of exercising, some of which are ludicrous beyond description.

The son of Mr. Huber, whom I have at this moment the satisfaction of possessing as a neighbour, is a still more distinguished character than his father was; with less brilliancy of parts, and labouring under the calamity of blindness from an early period of life, his attention has been turned to objects of natural history, and particularly to bees, the secrets of whose interiour government he has explained in the most interesting manner—making use for that purpose of a faithful and intelligent servant, whose eyes and whose attention he has directed, as they remained, for hours together, in patient expectation by the side of a hive.

The result of his experiments has filled a quarto volume, which I have now before me, and as it may never penetrate as far in America as the S. W. mountains, I will endeavour to give you some idea, and in as few words as possible, of the most interesting particulars, which have been either discovered by Mr. Huber himself, or confirmed by him as the discovery of others. There is a difficulty in subjects of this sort, arising from the language to be made use of, which should not imply reason in treating of animals so unquestionably unprovided with the faculty, and yet should not describe them as no more conscious of the motive, which influences their conduct, than a stone is of the secret cause which impels it towards the earth: the expression commonly made use of to evade the difficulty, is instinct, by which is meant the operation of some want, some sensation of inquietude, to be got the better of, or of satisfaction to be obtained, which impels the unconscious animal to all that its preservation requires; it is thus that a child sucks, and that a hen allays the fever of her breast, and remains attached to her eggs: but the knowledge of the bee, though not directed by its own experience, or the experience of others, and consequently not to be included in a definition of reason, is something very superiour to instinct; and when it leads to the preparation of larger cells for a distinguished portion of the future race, to a change of diet in the maintenance of such as are called upon to fill a station for which they do not appear originally designed, and to the massacre of a parcel of useless old bachelors, it deserves almost the name of inspiration. With a pride and a delicacy of modesty not un-

like that of Juno in the fourth Iliad, the female bee retires from each lawless gaze, "and meets her lover in the wilds of air;" to him, however, the honour is as fatal as that of marrying the Sultan was in the Arabian Nights Entertainments, "till the ingenuity of Scheherizade found means to excite the tyrant's curiosity: the eggs she lays are of two sorts, and when hatched, after the usual process of the insect race, those of the one sort become, according to circumstances, either females, or as they are not improperly called, queens, or of the neutral working tribe, whilst those of the other produce only males: the eggs which are deposited in cells of larger dimensions, and constructed with less economy, produce queens; and the royal worm is nourished with a peculiar sort of food. The first queen-bee, which issues from a cell, immediately attacks, with more than Turkish jealousy, her helpless sisters. It has pleased nature, that this sort of bee should in its nymph state be exposed to external attacks, in a manner that no other is, and that it should fall an easy victim to the good of the state, for the good of the state requires that there should be but one queen: should the parent queen have not yet issued with a swarm, or should one of the sister queens have been overlooked in the massacre, or should a stranger of the same rank be introduced into the hive, the rivals become inflamed at the sight of each other, with the most ungovernable fury, and a single combat takes place: this, though sometimes after repeated onsets, ends with the death of one of the parties, and the victor is as implicitly admitted to fill the vacant station, (the purposes of which are still a mystery) as a triumphant Bey is by the herd of inhabitants in old Cairo. It sometimes happens, however, that the hive is for a short time deprived of its queen, or that a want of a queen is foreseen, if I may use the expression, when the parent bee is observed to be occupied in the way that invariably precedes her issuing with a swarm; the operation which then takes place is one of the most wonderful in the whole history of this curious insect"—the neutrals go to work immediately, and either construct royal cells or convert into such a sufficient number of the common cells, and taking care to supply a chosen few of the infant race, which by having their cells enlarged, become royally lodged, with a sufficiency of the sort of food peculiarly adapted to the royal race, they create, if I may say so, as many queens as the occasion requires. When the hive is thronged, and a mind that reasoned would foresee the approaching necessity of frequent swarms, each to be headed by a queen, the neutral bees establish a guard around the royal cells, and by that means preserve each helpless sister from the rage and jealousy of the first born, whose confinement in the natal cell they also find means to prolong, feeding her meanwhile with honey, which succeeding bees supply through an orifice, contrived, to appearance, for that purpose. But as it might happen, notwithstanding all the precautions, that there would be a deficiency of what may be termed natural born queens, and the race of bees be in danger of extinction, it has pleased that Providence, which watches over this useful insect, that the infant bees, which happen to be placed in the neighbourhood of the royal cells, should be so far affected by the change of food, which

takes place near them, and of which some fragments fall to their share, as also to undergo a change of organization—they, too, are capable, it seems, of becoming the parents of succeeding generations, and like the pawns at chess, may be made queens of upon occasion.

I have since learned that the fecundity of these occasional queens is confined to the productions of males. At a certain season of the year the males, whose insensibility has enabled them to prolong a useless existence, are put to death without mercy, or driven out to perish elsewhere. Several of the above observations were already, I can conceive, familiar to you, but there are other which you will allow to be new, and singularly interesting. The food which the neutral bees prepare for the rising generation according to their destination, is chiefly composed of the farina of flowers, with which they are perceived to return home loaded, and the wax which is so material a part of the produce of a hive, is a preparation from honey in the stomach of the bee. Of the various articles which can be offered them as food at the door of their hives, nothing, it seems, contributes more to the formation of wax than the common brown sugar.

Desirous as Mr. Huber was of becoming acquainted with the whole history and economy of bees, and yet willing that the gratification of his curiosity should be as little injurious to them as possible, he naturally turned his attention to the disadvantages of the common bee-hive, and succeeded to the improvement of it, as you will agree with me, I trust if you will take the trouble to read the following description: figure to yourself a certain number of frames like those of school boys' slates, but composed of broader and thicker pieces, set up perpendicularly, with an orifice through the front piece of each near the bottom, and of a proper size for the entrance and exit of bees. These are placed as close to each other as books upon the shelves of a book-case, and are secured by a bandage carried round the whole, or by grooves in a top and bottom piece: and in order to direct the industry of the bees the necessary means are taken to secure a piece of honey-comb to the upper part or ceiling of each frame exactly corresponding to its length and breadth: the two exteriour frames have each a glass fixed in them, through which this busy people may be seen at work, and any particular frame, may, at any time, be selected and drawn out either for examination, or in order to get the honey it contains, without even a momentary derangement to the other parts of the hive. After all the wonders I have related, you are prepared, I presume, to be told that bees have the gift of speech, and there are times at which the queen bee, either annoyed by the confusion and uproar of the hive, or tired of confinement in her cell, emits a sound, which operating like a charm, commands their attention to her situation and to her wants, and calls the whole nation to order in a moment. It would seem from another very singular circumstance in the history of this interesting race of animals, that their sense of hearing is as delicate as that of Morose in the Silent Woman. One of their greatest enemies is the Death's head butterfly; it ravages their hives, and ravages them with impunity; instead of rushing out with violence to repel his attack, as one might expect from their usual conduct,

they are struck motionless with terrour, and seem paralyzed at the sound of his voice; you will smile at the mention of a butterfly's voice, but it is as dreadful to them as the roaring of a lion would be to a company of unprotected children. It is not improbale, I think, but that the custom of striking upon some sonorous body, in order to induce a swarm to settle, took its origin from observations made in very remote times upon this peculiarity in the organization of bees. There is another animal whose sense of hearing is peculiarly delicate, and it is right you should be made acquainted with anything interesting in a very inoffensive but ugly race, which we too genearlly entertain an antipathy to.

An eminent surgeon of Geneva, was struck with the circumstance of a bat's avoiding every obstacle to its flight, by an instantaneous change of direction, and suspected that it was unconnected with any peculiarity of vision; he tried, therefore, the cruel, perhaps, but interesting experiment of blinding several of them, and perceived that it made no difference in their flight, and that they avoided the pillars of a hall in which they were liberated, or the trees of a wood, as skilfully as when they had the use of their eyes—it then occurred to him to close their ears with wax, and to leave them the advantage of sight, but they either remained torpid on the ground, or if thrown up into the air, they struck themselves against everything in their way: it is difficult to conceive the sense of hearing endowed with such delicacy as to distinguish whether the column of air in opposition to rapid motion is shortened or not by any intervening obstacle, but when we recollect the exquisite sense of smell and of sight, which enables a hound and various birds of the vulture species to pursue, and to discover their prey, we can see no reason why Providence should not protect its creatures by the perfection of any other sense. To return to the subject of bees, I must inform you that I communicated to Mr. Huber the short extract I had made of his book, and that I received a very polite and a very instructive answer, and in order that it may not be mislaid, I will insert a copy of it here:

Huber remercie M. ——— de l'attention qu' il a bien voulu donner à son ouvrage sur les abeilles, il n'y a rien à changer dans le compte qu'il en a rendu et M. ——— y a répandu tout l'intérêt dont un extrait est susceptible.

L'auteur souhaiterait cependant que la description de sa ruche fut un peu plus detaillée; elle a reçu quelques modifications depuis la publication de ces lettres; et dans le cas ou Madame N—— ou quelqu'un des amis de M. ——— voulut en faire l'essai en Amérique, il faudrait lui donner tous les perfectionnemens dont on a constuté l'utilité et même la nécessité.

Article I.

La matière de la ruche.

Le bois de sapin doit être rejetté dans cette construction, ainsi que tout autre bois d'un tissu trop serré.

La fausse teigne de la cire sculpte ces sortes de bois avec trop de facilité: elle s'y creuse des retraites dans les quelles elle échappe aux recherches et à la vigilance des maitresses de la maison. On se flatte d'éviter cet inconvénient, en faisant les chasis des ruches en bois dur, tels que celui de chêne par

exemple. Si l'on pouvait en faire en *bois de fer* cela vaudrait encore mieux.

ARTICLE II.

Forme de la ruche et ses dimensions.

Il y a ici une grande latitude. Le mieux n'st pas encore trouvé. Ce qui est probable, c'est qu'il faudrait se rapprocher autant que possible de ce qui est indiqué par la nature.

Elle a assigné les arbres creux pour demeure à la feuillet des abeilles. La plus grande dimension de ruches naturelles, est dans le sens de la hauteur.

On entrevoit plusieurs avantages dans cette disposition; qu'on se figure un essaim d'abeilles logé dans la partie la plus elévée d'un arbre creusé par le tems, reserré dans un espace assez étroit, la chaleur qui lui est nécessaire, sera repandue bien plus également dans toute son atmosphère qu'elle ne le serait dans une cavité beaucoup plus large et dont l'essaim n'occuperait que la tiers ou que la moitié, les abeilles en travailleraient donc avec beaucoup plus d'ardeur et de suite. Lorsque l'essaim aurait rempli de rayons la partie supérieur de cette cavité; trouvant dans l'espace inférieur assez de vuide pour les étendre á son gré, il le ferait sans doute quand la saison le permettrait. Il construirait donc plus de magasin et pourrait faire des plus amples provisions; l'on aurait plus de cire et plus de miel.

Un troisiéme avantage très précieux qu'ont les ruches naturelles sur celles de notre invention, dans les quels tout n'a pas été prévu, c'est d'éviter la moisissure. L'atmosphère des abeilles est très humide quand cette eau ne peut pas s'écouler par le bas, la cire se moisit.

Dans les parties qui se trouvent trop éloignées du groupe des mouches et où il n'y a plus assez de chaleur pour prévenir la condensation des vapeurs, on conçoit que cela doit arriver fréquemment pendant l'hiver, dans nos ruches qui ont trop peu de hauteur, et où l'humidité est arrêtée par la table sur la quelle elles sont posées, et qui s'oppose également au prolongement des rayons.

On pourroit imiter à quelques égards les ruches naturelles, et leur laisser la faculté de pouvoir s'ouvrir; on donnerait alors beaucoup plus de hauteur aux chassis, cinque à six pieds par exemple, huit à neuf pouces de largeur prise intérieurement, leur donnerait une capacité suffisante. On lui donnerait douze à quinze lignes d'épaisseur dans un sens et dix-sept lignes dans l'autre, l'expérience ayant appris que c'est trop peu de seize.

En réunissent sept ou huit chassis de cette taille, on logerait peut-être convenablement les abeilles Americaines.

ARTICLE III.

Porte de la ruche.

On a supprimé les entrées que l'on avait conseillè de pratiquer au bas de chaque feuillet.

C'est au bas, et au milieu d'un des petits côtés de la ruche, qu'on doit placer l'ouverture ou la porte des abeilles; cette port doit être unique et perpendiculaire au plan des rayons.

On se reserve de donner là-dessus des détails ultérieurs.

ARTICLE IV.

Exposition des ruches.

Indifférente à ce que je crois la nature a placé les abeilles à l'ombre dans les forêts et dans toute

exposition; on peut donc faire comme elle. On a plus souvent trouvé des portes les ruches tournées vers le nord-ouest, que vers aucun autre point du ciel.

L'usage de placer les ruches en espalier au midi, a des inconveniens reconnus et dont on parlera dans une autre occasion si les ruches en feuillet paraissent en Amérique trop difficile à construire ou á manier on pourrait essayer une construction plus simple, et qui aurait aussi de très grands avantages.

Pour tirer tout le parti possible des abeilles, il faut nécessairement que les ruches soient divisibles dans un sens ou dans un autre; dans celles qui sont faites d'une seule pièce, on ne peut en prendre le miel sans nuire aux abeilles ni le faire dans les proportions exigées par leur état et leur besoin, ni les diminuer, ou les hausser à volonté, ni former artificiellement des essaims.

On se procurerait tout ces avantages par les dispositions suivantes: 1. On choiserait des arbres creusés par le tems ou par l'art; le creux cylindrique aurait à peu près neuf à dix pouces de large sur sept à huit pieds de long: 2. cet arbre serait divisé horizontalement en trois ou quart parties égales, c'est-à-dire, de deux pieds chacun. 3. Chaque partie serait séparée de l'autre par un plancher fixé à sa partie supérieure. Ce plancher serait percé d'un trou rond dans le milieu, de douze lignes de diamètre; à son bord il aurait des ouvertures longues et étroités pour faciliter l'écoulement des eaux, ces fentes auraient quatre à cinque pouces de longueur, et demi pouce dans le sens le plus étroit.

Entre ses overtures faites à la circonférence du plancher, et le trou du centre, on pratiquerait autant de trous que l'espace le comporte.

Ces trous destinées à faciliter les communications, seraient de six lignes au plus.

Il y a bien des moyens de reúnir les parties de cette ruche. On choisira les plus simples et les plus sûrs.

Pour fermer la ruche par en haut, on se servira d'une planche épaisse et forte; comme cette partie peut devenir l'nférieure à son tour, il faut qu'elle lui ressemble à tous égards et que son couvercle puisse s'enléver à volonté.

C'est dans la partie supérieure que l'essaim doit être reçu. Après cela on la met à sa place, et on l'y assujettit jusqu'à l'année suivante.

C'est alors, seulement qu'il faut songer à retirer quelque produit de ces ruches, en partageant avec les abeilles.

La nature du pays, celles des recoltes qu'elles ont pu faire, decideront de la manière dont ce partage doit être fait.

Si l'on demande plus de détails, Monsieur Huber sera toujours disposé à les donner. M. —— veut bien être persuadé de son entier devoument.

For The Port Folio.

There is nothing, Mr. Editor, more displeasing to the generality of mankind than the imputation of vulgarity. Call the ignorant mechanick ill-bred, and you will immediately find his pride roused and his resentment excited to a pitch equally high with the petit maitre, or the man of opulence stigmatised in a similar manner.

Accordingly it is found that the opprobrium is eluded by every possible means imagination can invent, or ability impower.

Elegance, in manners, in dress, in equipage, in short, in every thing susceptible of elegance, is studied by all who aspire to the appellation of *polite*.

In one instance alone can there be discovered an inattention to the darling object. In one instance alone, is there wanting a criterion by which to judge of a person's rank and situation in life

Perhaps you have anticipated that what I allude to is *pronunciation*. It is an unquestionable truth, that in *this city*; and perhaps in *yours*, the lawyer, the divine, and the auctioneer, the three characters, whose profession necessarily requires the most frequent and energetick use of the declamatory faculty, dare not, in every instance, plead *not guilty* to the charge: with a few exceptions, and a few deviations; deviations frequently as much to the honor of the one as the other, and exceptions so extremely rare as to detract nothing from the correctness of the position; speak the same language, as far as enunciation may be allowed to constitute a language.

Yes, were a foreigner desirous of obtaining an acquaintance with the orthoepy of the English language *here*, he would receive instructions on this head, as much to the purpose, from "the surgeon to old shoes," as from the *bel esprit*, or the man of letters.

From this statement of the case it must appear how eminently grating it is to the ears of those who have been habituated to a correct and Attick pronunciation, to be obliged to listen to the murderous mangling of nine tenths of the words, in whatever manner, addressed to them.

But, Mr. Editor, all this might be endured, and we could submit to have our "ears split" into disruptures as horrible as ever the "tearing to tatters," of any, or all, the nineteen passions of Aquinas, by e'er "a periwig-pated fellow," that has traversed the stage knee-deep in buskins, since the reign of Valdemar the first, has been known to inflict upon the ears of the "groundlings" of Denmark.

All this could be borne with patience and resignation, but alas! that those

> ———The harmony of whose tongues
> Doth into bondage bring our too diligent ears,

whose language ought to be the voice of Harmony herself, should so frequently transgress the rules of elegance, of propriety, in this respect; and while they enchain them, should wound our ears so unmercifully:——*hinc illæ lachrymæ*.

If, Sir, you conceive the following remarks likely to ameliorate the evil in question, in any degree, or likely to induce any person who has the ability so to do, to take the task upon himself, your insertion of them will gratify

Yours, &c.

DELTA.

Strictures on the general pronunciation that obtains in New-York.

Before proceeding to point out the errours and inaccuracies in pronunciation which have fallen under our observation, it will be necessary, in the first place, to project a scheme, by which the various sounds exhibited by the several vowels, may be appreciated with certainty and facility. And in order to accomplish this, appears the necessity of fixing on a standard, to which the orthoepy of the language may be reduced.

That this is proper, I presume there is no question, but *who* these are, who are to be the models, the dispensers, the arbiters of this pronunciation, is a point not so easily determined. Indeed, perhaps in nothing is the power of custom more conspicuously discoverable, than in the mode of pronunciation we adopt in conveying our thoughts to each other.

Every man adopts that which he finds most prevalent, and every man justifies it upon the score of custom. And consequently, as custom is various in various places, pronunciation assumes so many different forms, and puts on so many different appearances, as frequently to resemble, to the ear, rather a distinct language, than merely a different modification of its expression.

With regard to the inquiry, who have the right and authority to dictate in pronunciation, there are many, who assert, that *we*, that is our best speakers in the Senate, and elsewhere, are the models to be followed on this head. That this, however, is absurd, we need only to observe, that even of our best speakers, perhaps not two are to be found who pronounce alike; and as to making the gentlemen either of the upper or lower house our standards, heaven knows there are more than one of them, who speak—anything but English.

Our opinion, and we conjecture we have good reasons for holding it, is, that the pronunciation of a language ought to be conformed to that of the best informed speakers, who reside in what may be called the birth-place of the language: where it was first spoken in its purity, first cultivated, and where it was brought to that perfection in which it now exists, where the court and seat of government are, and, in short, wherever is the metropolis of the nation whose respective language is under consideration.

Thus, we contend, that all, who aim at a correct and elegant enunciation of English, should study to speak it as the best speakers in London do. Those, again, who desire to pronounce French with correctness and accuracy, must endeavour to pronounce as a Parisian of taste, as an Academician pronounces.

In like manner, Madrid determines the pronunciation of the *Spanish*, Rome that of the *Italian;* and every one knows that "La Lingua Toscana *in bocca Romana*," is proverbial for the perfection of the last mentioned language. Not that every inhabitant of every metropolis is qualified to regulate the mode of pronouncing his nation's tongue. The language of the vulgar will always be as distinct from that of the polite, as the manners of the one are from those of the other. There are three standards to which the pronunciation of a language is limited, the pulpit, the senate, and the theatre. The affectation however, and finicalness of the latter are to be guarded against equally with the pedantry and formality of the two former, and a man of true taste will readily discriminate between the true and the false, the genuine and the spurious. I have made this remark, in consequence of a gentleman of eminent literary abilities and taste, having observed, upon a perusal of the above in manuscript, that "the court and parliament of London are those who give the pronunciation to all others."

This is certainly too unqualified.

(To be continued.)

For The Port Folio.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

Messrs. Hopkins & Earle have published for the authour, M. Du Moulin of this city, a respectable instructor of the French language, a valuable, accurate, and well digested Grammar of his native tongue, entitled, " The French Tutor, containing Rules and Exercises intended to exemplify the French syntax according to the best authorities, preceded by an abridgment of the elementary part of grammar, and succinct rules, relative to the pronunciation and orthography " Elementary tracts of this description are so exceedingly numerous, and of late, so very trite and uniform, that we should have passed this over in silence, were it not for our conviction that in the compilation of this grammar the authour has displayed much patience of investigation, and a respectable acquaintance with the genius of both languages. Mr. Du Moulin has pursued the old and highway track of teaching, and never indulges himself by straying from the road in quest of novelty. But his path is straight, the prospect is clear, and the temple of knowledge is not obscured by a cloud nor magnified through a mist. The inquisitive pupil, under the guidance of Mr. D. will be sure to find his way to his object, and will neither be *embarrassed with too much regulation* nor permitted to wander in the pursuit of phantoms. The rules for pronunciation in the first chapter are wonderfully succinct, and yet are as perfect as the nature of the topick will allow. Indeed we are exceedingly sceptical on this head. If a scholar of the brightest capacity and the most accurate ear, but which had never listened to the oral sounds of France, should for example, in the retirement of a country town, attempt by written rules to *speak* like a Frenchman, our derided learner would not by any effort make himself intelligible to the humblest citizen of Blois, or to the polite scholar of Paris. A residence in a French family here, or a visit to the domains of the Emperour, a constant intercourse with Frenchmen somewhere, or the habit for a time, of speaking nothing but French is absolutely necessary; and all the chapters in the world, upon pronunciation can merely illustrate, but never teach. The rest of Mr. D.'s. book may be very profitably perused, and the sections devoted to syntax, should task the powers both of memory and judgment, and should not only exercise the mind but the pen. Here much patience, watchful attention, and persevering labour will be absolutely necessary, and he, who from prejudice or indolence refuses to pay the just price for the valuable fruit of French literature, and, to pursue the allusion, according to the established rate in the old market, must be content to submit to a privation. The little treatise in question does not profess to do every thing for the learner. In every instance it lays down a principle, assigns a cause, and furnishes a proof or an illustration, and then leaves him to explore his way by the light of his own understanding. It is believed it was Monsieur d'Alembert, who, with all his defects as a moralist and a politician, was certainly a man of a very vigorous intellect, was wont to declare that this sort of effort was indispensable; GOLDSMITH, in his invaluable practical essay on education, is of the same opinion. The grammar, the dictionary, must be assiduously consulted. Each word, each combination will then become familiar; and, in exact proportion to the diligence we have displayed, will be the extent and the value of the acquisition. On the most mature reflection it seems that no better plan can be devised for acquiring an intimate acquaintance with the grace and delicacy of the French language, than first to study it grammatically, according to the best models which experience has afforded, then

to store the memory with a copious collection of idioms and phrases, of which Mr. Dufief's second volume affords a very great variety. Then, the dictionary of the academy constantly at hand, and habitually consulted, let us open the pages of Pascal, Fenelon, and Boileau in the morning, and converse with French gentlemen or French ladies at night. During the whole of this process, the well principled and guarded pupil will confine his attention to those writers who formed another Augustan age under the munificence of the French monarchy, and reject with mingled indignation and contempt the mawkish crudities or the bitter fruits of the French Revolution.

The little volume, to which we have devoted a small section of our paper, and of which we think very favourably, is as concise as the nature of the subject will allow. It is neatly and correctly printed in a commodious form. The list of subscribers appended to the volume contains the names of many, who, being excellent French scholars themselves, would scarcely encourage a work of this class, unless it had strong pretensions to favour.

For The Port Folio.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLICAN.

A daily paper, intended as a vehicle both for political and commercial information, has recently been established at Baltimore, entitled "The Federal Republican." We have not yet received any numbers of this new publication, but we take occasion to republish, with alacrity, a part of the Editor's Prospectus. This is in the nature of a manifesto, and is remarkable for the spirit and vivacity of the composition. At first we were apprehensive that this establishment might mar the interest and clash with the just pretensions of The North American; a paper decidedly Federal, and conducted, by Mr. Wagner, in a very able, spirited, and judicious manner. But we understand that he does not consider The Federal Republican by any means, as an impertinent interloper, or a jealous rival, but that, being perfectly well supported himself, he regards another establishment with no other eye than that of a brother. This being the case, it is highly pleasing to find that FEDERALISM at Baltimore is so strong and so liberal, as to support two new papers, whose Editors profess to be the stanch supporters of the doctrines of HAMILTON. We hail this as an auspicious omen, and indeed, it is visible in many important sections of our territory, that a very great revolution has, within a short time, taken place in the publick mind. National adversity has produced the same salutary consequences that frequently flow from individual distress. Men forsake their wandering humour, and return once more to the high road of duty. Many of the cheated people begin to perceive that they have been mocked by the delusions of Democracy long enough, and are solicitous to be once more reconciled to that Federal polity, which, exclusively, has promoted the good of the country. The success of the paper which has given birth to these reflections, is very cordially wished by the writer of this article. He has reason to suppose that he is acquainted with some of its Editors, and his knowledge of their industry, talents, and zeal, is sufficient to justify his sanguine hopes of the important service they will render to the Federal party. Moreover, the *basis* of this establishment is, in our opinion, beyond all controversy, the broadest and best that can be adopted. This paper is upheld by a *confederacy* of writers, and we have repeatedly declared, and it is one of our settled habits of thinking, that such an alliance is essential to the success of any Journal; whether its objects be political or literary. There is not a paper in the country, of high and lasting reputation, and ample emolument, whose proprietor is not either openly or covertly furnished with facilities for the uniform and spirited discharge of his duty. Even in England, where readers

are so numerous, and at a period not more remote than the year 1752, the closing numbers of The Rambler itself, supported by the strength of Johnson *alone*, failed to interest the publick curiosity, or to reward the bookseller's just expectations. A solitary individual, however liberally endowed, with the gifts of Nature, or of Fortune, may not presumptuously hope to conduct, without assistance, a work, whose essence consists in endless variety. Sorrow may depress, Sickness invade, or Misfortune overwhelm any man. In any of these situations, however enterprizing, laborious, and gallant, at other times, he resembles the knight of ancient chivalry, under the subduing spell of the enchanter, and is *compelled* to leave the adventure unfinished. On the other hand, an alliance of men of genius, industry, and property, is a perfect pledge for the merit, the resources, the durability, and fair character of a periodical publication. Such a union has, for more than seventy years, maintained, with unabating spirit, The Monthly Review, which now shines with superiour lustre, in the metropolis of Britain. Such a union gives all its wisdom and all its wit to the best critical journal in Scotland. Such a union, and nothing but such a union, supports the most popular papers on the continent, and the fashionable papers in London. We know of no successful exception from this principle in America. Our Baltimore friends will quickly perceive the advantages of brotherhood, in the high task they have undertaken. But it must be remembered, that some one member of the association should have the general superintendance of the paper, and that, with respect to all the great principles in politicks, or whatever other topick they may choose to discuss, there should be a cordial union of faith and practice.

"When we reflect upon the critical situation of our country, a mingled sensation of gloomy apprehension and enlivening hope arises in the mind. The patriotick bosom is agonized with grief for the present and anxiety for the future. The general gloom which hangs over our afflicted country, has broken the spirit and crushed the enterprize of a great people. Already we are sinking under our afflictions, but their measure is not filled. The evils we *may* have to encounter, are sufficient to appal the stoutest hearts. Standing amidst the ruins of states and empires, spectators of the sad events, which in a "long, unbroken, funereal train," have passed in review before us, we are alarmed into reflection, our minds are purified by terrour and pity; our weak, unthinking pride is humbled before the dispensations of a mysterious wisdom. The mound which stands between us and destruction bends beneath the mighty, continued, and accumulative force. Already we see the torrent, which has desolated Europe, approaching our hitherto peaceful and happy land.

It is the part of magnanimity to rise under the pressure of calamity. It is the attribute of prudence to anticipate future and to provide against impending evils. It might have been expected, that the freemen of America would be at last weary of humiliation and disgrace. It might have been expected, that a generous despair would rouse the spirit of enthusiasm, and that the electrick spark would communicate its influence from Georgia to Maine. Such were our reasonable hopes, but they have not been gratified.

To meet the dangers which threaten to assail us, we have neither an army, nor a navy, nor fortifications. Political prejudice is opposed to an army, an exhausted treasury will not support a na-

vy, and the plan of fortifications is incompatible with the system of economy. We have indeed *miniatures* of each, curious in appearance, but utterly insufficient for the purposes of national defence.

Our navy, that infant Hercules, which, in the honest anticipating pride of the country, was to strangle the serpents of Europe, miserably made up of a few score of *ferry-boats;* instead of resisting the piratical depredations of foreigners, is preying upon our own vessels and tyrannizing over our own citizens—instead of chasing before them the French marauders, who infest our ports, they are employed in enforcing unconstitutional decrees and orders—feeble against our enemies, but formidable to us.

In our administration we behold the same blind confidence, improvident security, and servile submission, which, more than the arms of France, has subjected Europe to the yoke of the conquerour. The proud, aspiring spirit of Americans languishes under the effects of a mean, and dastardly, and degrading policy, which, while it humbles and impoverishes the nation, exposes it to scorn, contempt, and perpetual insult. The honour of a glorious people, who but a few years past humbled the pride of a mighty nation, is tarnished; the laurels purchased by illustrious deeds of valour, have withered in the unhallowed and treacherous keeping of false patriots. The national spirit is mouldering away, the love of glory is giving place to the love of wealth, and all these evils are derived from the influence of a fatal system of expedients and of false economy.

A new period in our history is arrived. The principles, upon which parties divided at the formation of our Federal Constitution, have become of secondary consequence. We are not at this time contending for favourite theories. The question does not concern speculative points of government; it is more momentous, for it involves our eventual existence as freemen. It is to be determined whether we shall live under the government of our choice, or become the province of a foreign power—whether we shall exchange the garb of freemen for the livery of vassals. "An unseen hand" directs the councils of our country, and urges us on to fatal ruin. With fear and trembling, we gaze on the black clouds which are rising above our political horizon; the distant thunder warns us of the approaching storm, whilst we, riveted by a fatal fascination, seek no shelter from the fury of the tempest. The roaring cannon of the enemy is pointed towards us, and we want the courage to defend ourselves.

Such is the most important feature in the face of our political affairs. But while one enemy assails us without, another is labouring within. A fixed determination has been betrayed by the party in power, to carry into operation a favourite theory of their leader—the annihilation of commerce. To further this purpose, the Constitution has been violated, power has been usurped, and the most perfect indifference to the sacred rights of the citizen has been manifested. A powerful party is arrayed in open hostility to the judiciary; a plan has been avowed, and is ripe for execution, to cut away the great political anchor, at which, in the stormy times of peril and dismay, the vessel of state has rode in safety.

A lambent ray of hope gilds this dreary prospect. Our situation, though critical, is far from desperate. Wisdom points out a path to certain security. To pursue this path, the people must have virtue, fortitude, and courage. They must no longer close their eyes to the dangers that threaten them. They must no longer blindly confide in their favourites. Would the people be sensible to their true situation, they may be yet rescued from the danger which awaits them; they may be saved from the common grave in which the liberties of Europe have been entombed, and slavery and wretchedness may not be entailed upon their posterity. Let us with grateful hearts render thanks to the Supreme Disposer of good and of evil, that symptoms of recovery are already visible, that the languishing body politick has had strength to contend with the raging fever, which threatened to consume it, and for the hope that the struggles of nature will destroy the humours of disease. Once in a state of convalescence, we do not fear a relapse. The people will awake from the disturbed dreams of democratick philosophy, and shaking off the administration, which sits like an incubus upon them, will arise in the majesty of a great and magnanimous nation, will defend their rights with vigour and courage, and teach tyrants to respect their virtue.

If ever there was a time which demanded the exertions of those who love their country, it is the present. Much is to be apprehended and much to be hoped. But to realize our hopes, the most indefatigable exertions are required from the friends of civil liberty and social order, from all classes of citizens, from the statesman, the scholar, and the soldier. Our enemies are active and persevering, and our dearest interests are at stake. To give an exaggerated description of our difficulties and dangers is impossible. The most highly coloured fiction could not equal the reality. In vain are intrigue and artifice employed to lull us into security; our feelings tell us we are insulted and betrayed.

Alive to the distress and danger of our country, and influenced by a desire to contribute whatever aid it be in our power to afford the American cause, we have determined to establish a new Journal, to cooperate with those whose views are single to their country's good.

In the conduct of this paper, we shall be regulated by the sound and healthful principles of the Federal school. We are not the disciples of Condorcet or of Paine. If our political tenets should ever want a further elucidation, we shall not call on democracy to explain them. We shall not light up our temple from that unhallowed fire. It will be illuminated with the rays of a more pure and lasting light. It will be perfumed with the incense of the memory of a WASHINGTON and a HAMILTON. Supporting the Federal Constitution, we shall cleave closely to the institutions of our ancestors, and, viewing all innovation with a jealous eye, we shall mock at those miserable jugglers who have made a philosophy and a religion of their hostility to all order, and all establishment.

Need we add anything as to the moral and religious principles, which our paper will ever inculcate and support? Knowing that Religion is the basis of civil society, the source of all good and of all consolation, we will fight under

its sacred banner to the last gasp; and stripping the impious and the infidel, the atheist and the deist of his false and deceitful garb, we will exhibit the monster in his native deformity.

To the mere student, who devotes his time to literary acquirements, we may promise some relief from the ruggedness of politicks, and the asperities of controversial discussion. Passing "from grave to gay, from lively to severe," we shall endeavour to present a banquet for every taste. Interesting biographies, critical notices of new works, original and selected poetry will sometimes adorn our columns.

As much of the time and attention of its conductors will necessarily be consumed in rendering this establishment deserving of general approbation and support, it is at least desirable, that they should be secured in those pecuniary advances which are incident to it. They ask no more. Their object is not gain; they have higher and more honourable views. The disinterested motives, which have prompted them to this laborious undertaking, certainly give them a claim upon their political friends for favour and support. We confidently trust that their independence and patriotism will urge them to aid us in an effort to serve our country. To our commercial friends we would particularly address ourselves:

"*Gentle breath of theirs our sails*
"*Must fill, or else our project fails.*"

Their patronage is necessary to our existence; without it we must abandon all exertion. We shall offer them in return, the closest attention to their interest, and our industrious efforts to procure the earliest mercantile intelligence. We cherish a hope that they will not neglect us, but by presenting us with a portion of their favours, preserve our exertions from the blasting influence of pecuniary embarrassment.

As to the manner of conducting our paper enough has been said. We will merely add, that the columns of THE FEDERAL REPUBLICAN will be forever closed against scurrility and abuse. Manly and independent investigation into the actions of publick men, we earnestly invite. With equal caution, we shall avoid the charge of virulence or of timidity; the characters of private citizens shall be preserved sacred and inviolable; but we will not wink at corruption in office, nor fear to express the indignation we feel against the foreign or domestick enemies of our country. In a word, we shall be directed by truth and patriotism; we shall endeavour to disseminate correct principles of government, to infuse into the publick mind the love of glory, and to *rouse the dormant spirit of America.*

CONDITIONS.

This paper will be published every morning, at the rate of $7 to annual subscribers, payable half yearly.

A Country Paper will be issued three times a week, at $5 per annum, payable in advance.

Advertisements will be inserted on the usual terms.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

For The Port Folio.

During the festivities of the fourth of July, as celebrated by the Federalists of Dover, in N. H. HENRY MELLEN, Esq, a gentleman of the bar, and highly distinguished as a polite scholar, was prevailed upon to

provide a song for the occasion. Instead of that bombastick cant, the vulgar offspring of the day, he produced the following arch stanzas, which will remind the reader of some of the bagatelles of DEAN SWIFT. From many of the acutest reasoners in the nation we have been favoured with irresistible *arguments* against that preposterous measure the *Embargo*, which, if there were no other record of the absurdities of Mr. Jefferson's politicks, will always display the imbecility of his administration. But though Reason has been constantly and decisively engaged in the combat, *Wit* has seldom been so successfully engaged in the service, as under the command of the gallant MELLEN.

THE EMBARGO.

A song, composed by HENRY MELLEN, *Esq. of Dover, (N. H.) and sung there at the celebration of the Fourth of July*, 1808.

(Tune—*Come let us prepare.*)

Dear sirs, it is wrong
To demand a *new song*;
I have let all the breath I can spare go;
With the Muse I've conferr'd,
And she wont say a word,
But keeps laughing about the *Embargo*.

I wish that I could
Sing in Allegro mood;
But the times are as stupid as *Largo*;
Could I have my choice,
I would strain up my voice,
Till it *snapt* all the strings of *Embargo*.

Our great politicians,
Those dealers in visions,
On *paper* to all lengths they dare go;
But when call'd to decide,
Like a *turtle* they hide
In their own pretty *shell*, the *Embargo*.

In the time that we try
To put out Britain's *eye*,
I fear we shall let our own *pair* go;
Yet still we 're so wise,
We can see with *French* eyes,
And then we shall like the *Embargo*.

A French privateer
Can have nothing to fear;
She may *load*, and may *here* or may *there* go;
Their Friendship is such,
And we love them so much,
We let them slip thro' the *Embargo*.

Our ships, all in motion,
Once whiten'd the ocean,
They sail'd and return'd with a *cargo*;
Now doom'd to decay,
They have fallen a prey
To Jefferson, worms, and *Embargo*.

Lest Britain should take
A few men by mistake,
Who under false colours may dare go;
We 're manning their fleet
With our Tars, who retreat
From poverty, sloth, and *Embargo*.

What a *fuss* we have made
About rights and *free* trade,
And swore we'd not let our own share go;
Now we can't for our souls
Bring a Hake from the *shoals*,
'Tis a breach of the *twentieth* EMBARGO.

Our farmers so gay,
How they gallop'd away,
'Twas money that made the old mare go.
But now she wont stir
For the whip or the spur.
Till they take off her *clog*, the *Embargo*;

If you ask for a debt,
The man turns in a *pet*;
"*I* pay, Sir? I'll not let a hair go;
"If your officer comes,
"I shall put up my thumbs,
"And clap on his breath an *Embargo*.

Thus Tommy destroys
A great part of our joys;
Yet we'll not let the beautiful fair go;
They all will contrive,
To keep Commerce alive,
There's nothing they hate like *Embargo*.

Since rulers design
To deprive us of wine,
'Tis best that we now have a *rare go*;
Then each to his post,
And see who will do most
To knock out the *blocks* of *Embargo*.

The price of The Port Folio is Six Dollars per annum, to be paid in advance.

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